



February 5, 2025

Deer Public Hearing
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA 01581

The Massachusetts Conservation Alliance (MCA) provides the following input on proposals relative to the January 23, 2025 public hearing on proposed new deer regulatory changes.

We support changes to create a January primitive hunting season in zones 13 & 14, changes that clarify that food plots are legal to use for hunting, changes that allow the use of deer decoys for hunting during archery seasons, the removal of daily bag limit for antlerless deer, changes authorize Youth Deer Permits for any open deer season, changes that exempt antler shed hunting from possession permit requirements, and changes that expand deboning requirements to all states outside of New England.

The changes detailed above are incremental improvements to existing whitetail deer hunting regulations. Our members believe that incremental changes will not be sufficient enough to reduce deer population in Zones 13 & 14 to achieve management goals. The islands pose significant transportation and lodging issues especially in the winter months. While we support these changes we urge a more comprehensive review of changes needed to reduce populations in all zones where deer populations are over management targets. We believe it's time to consider expansion of the shotgun season in these zones until management targets are closer to management objectives.

Worth noting is MCA and other like-minded leagues and clubs, depend on a MA deer farm today to pool funds to procure a deer for the August Junior Conservation Camp field dressing and field to table dining and education experience. With the future loss of access to a whole deer in the summer time with proposed deer farm sunsetting, the hands-on education experience is a loss and can't be effectively replicated with videos.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne M. Adams".

Wayne M. Adams
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